Ashes of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

6630. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the casket containing the ashes of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is kept at Rankoji Budhist temple in Tokyo;

(b) what steps Government have so far taken to bring back to India the ashes of Netaji from Tokyo; and

(c) what is Government's attitude in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was reported to have died in Taipai (Taiwan) on August 18, 1945. His body was creamated two days later and the ashes carried to Japan The ashes have since been maintained at the Renkoji Buddhist Temple in Nakano, Tokyo. Two Commissions of Enquiry were appointed by the Governemnt of India on the question of Netaji's death in the air crash on August 18, 1945. The first Enquiry Committee set up in 1956 was headed by late Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and included Netaji's elder brother Shri S.C. Bose. The majority opinion was that Netaji met his death in the aircrash and that the ashes at the Renkoji Temple were that of Netaji. However, Netaji's brother Shri S.C. Bose gave a dissenting view. In 1970, the one-man Justice G.D. Khosla Committee also concluded that the casket lodged in the Renkoji Temple contained the ashes of Netaji. There have been attempts to have a new enquiry instituted. There have also been moves to have the ashes brought back to India, with all reverence and honour as befitting a man of the stature of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. However, many people, including Netaji's nephews, still doubt the event of Netaji's reported death and question the veracity of the ashes. In Japan itself, where the ashes are lodged, there have been repeated requests from the Renkoji Temple and Japanese associates of Netaji for the ashes to return to India. The issue of Netaji's death is charge with emotion and opinions remain divided. Government of india is of the view that bringing the ashes back to India in absence of a consensus on the issue might prove divisive and create tensions.

U.S. Telecasting India's Nuclear Programme

6631. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press newsitem captioned "Biased US TV programme upsets India" as reported in the Statesman dated 26th February, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the US Television has telecasted India's nuclear programme;

(c) if so, whether Government have protested against CBS television for featuring such programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the further reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CBS TV network in its programme "Sixty Minutes" on 13 February, 1994 telecast a film on India's nuclear programme, alleging that the programme was "ambitious, secret and potentially dangerous", surrounded by high "secrecy and security" and that India's nuclear power programme was "a dangerous failure".

(c) yes, Sir.

(d) In their reaction Government stated that the film telecast under the "Sixty Minutes" programme was "a deliberate misrepresentation of facts'. A press release issued by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) on February 15, 1994 said that the CBS team, during their visit to India, had been given detailed explanations on the working of India's nuclear regulatory system but these views seem to have given very little